

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A postage indicium fraud detection method for permitting the automated processing of void mail pieces bearing a unique postage indicium using existing automated mail handling equipment. The method includes printing a unique indicium on a mail piece or a label to be applied to a mail piece, which indicium is adapted to be identified and sorted by automated mail handling equipment and which unique indicium identifies the mail piece as being a void mail piece. The unique indicium can be a new type of FIM mark, a POSTNET barcode, or other indicium. The void mail piece bearing the unique indicium with the automated mail handling equipment is processed to identify and segregate the void mail piece from other non-void mail pieces.

20 DRK/drk

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